

N 9951

CONSTANCE R. KIRIU
County Clerk



WILLIAM E. SMITH
Deputy County Clerk

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October 6, 2005

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.
United States Navy (Retired)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14th Street & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 6217
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

As directed in Resolution 167-05 (Draft 2), I am forwarding a copy of this Resolution, which was adopted by the Council of the County of Hawai'i on October 5, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Constance R. Kiriu".

Constance R. Kiriu
County Clerk

CRK/dt

Enclosure

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I



STATE OF HAWAI'I

RESOLUTION NO. 167 05

(Draft 2)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPLETE AND PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS ECOSYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) are the most remote, large-scale coral reef ecosystem on earth; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI are of great significance in Hawaiian culture and history; and

WHEREAS, the cold waters of the NWHI and the limited nutrient cycling make the NWHI ecosystem fragile; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI must be able to provide adequate support to endemic, rare, threatened, and endangered species including:

- Hawaiian monk seals,
- Green, Hawksbill, and Leatherback marine turtles,
- migratory sea birds,
- ancient coral colonies, and
- fish populations, many of which are depleted from the waters of the main Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, the NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (Reserve) was created by federal Executive Order 13178 dated December 4, 2000, as amended by federal Executive Order 13196 dated January 18, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Sanctuary Program has initiated the process to designate the Reserve as a National Marine Sanctuary under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act to secure comprehensive protection and enhance public awareness of resources within the Reserve; and

WHEREAS, public input has demanded the strongest possible protections for this special place; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Hawai'i and the, Chair of the Hawai'i State Board of Land and Natural Resources, on September 30, 2005, signed regulations that establish all State waters in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a marine refuge. This puts all State waters from Nihoa island to Kure Atoll into a limited access, no extraction marine refuge; and

WHEREAS, such a Refuge reflects public-input by guaranteeing Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence practices, while prohibiting all commercial and recreational fishing in the state waters of the NWHI; and

WHEREAS, consistent and complementary regulation is essential throughout both the State and federal waters in the NWHI to ensure this special place is completely protected; and

WHEREAS, Congressional legislation is the paramount means of guaranteeing complete and permanent protection of the entire NWHI ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, a National Marine Sanctuary protecting the NWHI ecosystem would benefit Hawai'i's international reputation for ocean protection by creating the largest marine protected area in the world.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Hawai'i that leaders at all levels of government are urged to advocate U.S. Congressional action that permanently and completely protects the NWHI, by prohibiting all commercial activities, while protecting Native Hawaiian cultural, religious, and subsistence practices, and allowing only limited and appropriate scientific and educational activities in the NWHI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Hawai'i to support immediate administrative action by the National Marine Sanctuary Program to prohibit all extractive uses in the proposed federal sanctuary in the NWHI, while protecting the traditional and cultural practices in the area.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation to the U.S. Congress, the Chief Administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Chairperson of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Dated at Hilo, Hawai'i, this 5th day of October, 2005.

INTRODUCED BY:


COUNCIL MEMBER, COUNTY OF HAWAI'I

COUNTY COUNCIL
County of Hawai'i
Hilo, Hawai'i

I hereby certify that the foregoing RESOLUTION was by
the vote indicated to the right hereof adopted by the COUNCIL of the
County of Hawai'i on October 5, 2005.

ATTEST:




COUNTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN & PRESIDING OFFICER

(I HEREBY CERTIFY that above is a
true and correct copy of the original
now on file in my office.



County Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE

	AYES	NOES	ABS	EX
ARAKAKI			X	
HIGA	X			
HOFFMANN			X	
HOLSCHUH	X			
IKEDA	X			
ISBELL	X			
JACOBSON	X			
PILAGO			X	
SAFARIK	X			
	6	0	3	0

Reference: C-442.1

RESOLUTION NO. **167 05**
(Draft 2)